

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBAN 00247 221543Z
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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJ: MULDER OPENS KWAZULU ASSEMBLY; BUTHELEZI RESPONDS

REF: DURBAN 74 A-50

1. PLURAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CONNIE MULDER FORMALLY OPENED THE THIRD SESSION OF THE KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (KLA) APRIL 19 WITH A SPEECH CONTINUING HIS RECENT EMPHASIS ON OPENING A BETTER DIALOGUE WITH SA BLACK LEADERS BASED ON INCREASED CANDOR AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS. MULDER WAS FULSOME IN PERSONAL PRAISE OF CHIEF BUTHELEZI, ESPECIALLY IN COMMENDING HIM ON THE IMPRESSIVE RECENT INKATHA ELECTION VICTORY. THE MINISTER DID NOT AT ANY TIME REFER TO KWAZULU INDEPENDENCE, SEEMING FOR THE TIME BEING TO ACCEPT THAT THE INKATHA VICTORY DIMINISHED SAG HOPES OF EARLY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE HOMELAND. (IN A RECENT SPEECH, MULDER REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE KWAZULU ELECTORAL RESULT RULED OUT SUCH A PROSPECT.)

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PAGE 02 DUBAN 00247 221543Z

2. MULDER'S HOPE FOR A MORE SINCERE DIALOGUE WAS AGAIN EMPHASIZED DURING A SMALL PRIVATE LUNCHEON WHEN HE TOLD BUTHELEZI, "WE MAY DIFFER ON CERTAIN POINTS BUT I WILL NEVER DOUBT YOUR SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY AS I HOPE YOU WILL NEVER DOUBT MINE." BEYOND THESE EXPRESSIONS, HOWEVER, MULDER OFFERED NO INDICATIONS OF WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE IN MIND. IN FACT, IN REFERRING TO SAG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE KWAZULU BUDGET IN THE UPCOMING

FISCAL YEAR, MULDER STRESSED THE CONTINUING NEED FOR KWAZULU BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS AND INCREASED SELF-GENERATION OF REVENUES AND REFERRED TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS YEAR'S GRANT WOULD AGAIN BE INADEQUATE TO MEET KWAZULU'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. (IN THE BUDGET TABLED IN THE KLA APRIL 20, THIS PROVED TO BE THE CASE.)

3. CHIEF BUTHELEZI RESPONDED TO MULDER'S REMARKS IN AN INITIALLY HOPEFUL TONE. HE APPLAUDED THE MINISTER'S DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE AND THE "HUMILITY AND FRANKNESS" WITH WHICH MULDER DESCRIBED THE AFRIKANER'S FEARS ABOUT RETAINING HIS IDENTITY. MULDER'S RECENT SPEECHES, HE NOTED, HAD CREATED AN "AIR OF EXPECTANCY AND NEW HOPE" BUT HE PUT THE MINISTER ON NOTICE THAT BLACKS WOULD EXPECT PROMISES TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO REALITIES. BUTHELEZI SAID ZULUS WERE HEARTENED BY MULDER'S RECENT POSITION ON KWAZULU INDEPENDENCE AND ENCOURAGED BY A REPORTED MULDER STATEMENT THAT "OTHER ALTERNATIVES" WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT. HE CAUTIONED THAT ANY SUCH ALTERNATIVES WOULD HAVE TO BE OUTSIDE THE APARTHEID SYSTEM IF THEY WERE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BLACK PEOPLE OF S.A. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY CRITICIZED ABROAD FOR HIS NON-VIOLENT STANCE AND WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO TALK WITH THE SAG. HE THEREFORE HOPED THE SAG ATTITUDE WOULD LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT OF BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS THROUGH A NATIONAL CONVENTION NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS (AND, HE SUGGESTED, TO VINDICATE HIS OWN POSITION).
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PAGE 03 DURBAN 00247 221543Z

4. BUTHELEZI THEN USED THE OCCASION TO ATTACK PAST AND RECENT ACTIVITIES OF MULDER'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION WHICH HE REGARDED AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH MULDER'S ESPRESSED DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. HE STRONGLY OBJECTED TO USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIS STATEMENTS AND A PHOTOGRAPH LAST JANUARY SUPPORTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN S.A. WHILE BUTHELEZI, INKATHA AND THE KWAZULU GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED SUCH INVESTMENT "AT THE MOMENT", BUTHELEZI BELIEVED IT MISLEADING TO FRAME HIS POSITION IN AN ADVERTISE-
MENT ALONG WITH LEADERS (SUCH AS J.N. REDDY, DR. WILLIAM BERGIN, CHIEF SEBE AND OTHERS) WHOSE IDEAS ON APARTHEID AND HOMELANDS INDEPENDENCE DIFFERED WITH HIS OWN. BUTHELEZI ALSO ATTACKED A DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION REPORT FOR SABC (REPORTEDLY USED ON THE RADIO BANTU NETWORK) ALLEGING COERCION, INTIMIDATION AND VOTING IRREGULARITIES DURING THE KWAZULU ELECTIONS. BUTHELEZI QUESTIONED HOW SUCH OPERATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS AND WHETHER THEY DID NOT, IN FACT, UNDO THE OBJECTIVES AT WHICH MULDER WAS AIMING.

5. COMMENT: MULDER'S FORTHCOMING REMARKS AND BUTHELEZI'S OVERALL WARM RECEPTION ARE IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION

FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN MULDER LAST OPENED THE KLA WITH PERFUNCTORY REMARKS WHICH DREW A SCATHING BUTHELEZI REPLY (REFAIR). THIS YEAR BUTHELEZI'S REMARKS, THOUGH DIRECT, WERE FRAMED WITHIN A DESIRE FOR GREATER COOPERATION. THE MOST OVER MANIFESTATION OF CONFRONTATION WAS PROVIDED BY ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE INKATHA YOUTH BRIGADE WHO GREETED MULDER OUTSIDE THE ASSEMBLY HALL WITH CHANTS AND PLACARDS DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND AN END TO "PLURALISM". THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES WERE CLEARLY CONDONED AND MOST LIKELY INSTIGATED BY BUTHELEZI TO EMPHASIZE HIS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE SAG AND DEMONSTRATE THAT INKATHA, TOO, IS CAPABLE OF YOUTHFUL ACTIVISM. FARBER

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